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22 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
23 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND DIVISION**

24 CHASOM BROWN, *et al.*, individually and
25 on behalf of themselves and all others
similarly situated,

26 Plaintiffs,

27 vs.

28 GOOGLE LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:20-cv-03664-YGR-SVK

**GOOGLE LLC’S ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO SEAL PORTIONS OF
GOOGLE LLC’S REPLY IN SUPPORT
OF MOTION FOR RELIEF REGARDING
PRESERVATION**

Judge: Hon. Susan van Keulen, USMJ

Case No. 4:20-cv-03664-YGR-SVK

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Pursuant to Civil Local Rules 7-11 and 79-5, Defendant Google LLC (“Google”)
 3 respectfully seeks to seal certain portions of Google LLC’s Reply in Support of Motion for Relief
 4 Regarding Preservation (“Reply”), which contains non-public, highly sensitive and confidential
 5 business information that could affect Google’s competitive standing and may expose Google to
 6 increased security risks if publicly disclosed, including details related Google’s internal projects,
 7 internal databases, data signals, and logs, and their proprietary functionalities, as well as internal
 8 metrics, which Google maintains as confidential in the ordinary course of its business and is not
 9 generally known to the public or Google’s competitors. This information is highly confidential and
 10 should be protected.

11 This Administrative Motion pertains to the following information contained in the Reply:

12 Document	13 Portions to be Filed Under Seal	14 Party Claiming Confidentiality
15 Google LLC’s Reply in Support of Google’s Motion for Relief Regarding Preservation	16 Portions Highlighted in Blue at: Pages 1:5-6, 2:3-4, 3:7-8, 3:26, 4:7, 4:9-10, 4:18-19, 4:21-25, 4:27, 5:3, 5:7, 5:12-15, 5:18, 6:6-7, 8:14, 9:18, 9:27	17 Google
18 Declaration of Viola Trebicka in Support of Google LLC’s Reply in Support of Motion for Relief Regarding Preservation	19 Portions Highlighted in Blue at: Pages 1:16-17, 1:19-20	20 Google
21 Exhibit 1 GOOG-CABR-05290579	22 Seal Entirely	23 Google
24 Exhibit 2 GOOG-CABR-03841078	25 Seal Entirely	26 Google
27 Exhibit 3 GOOG-CABR-03655476	28 Seal Entirely	29 Google
30 Exhibit 4 .CSV/.PDF data file	31 Seal Entirely	32 Google
33 Exhibit 5 .CSV/.PDF data file	34 Seal Entirely	35 Google

26 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

27 A party seeking to seal material must “establish[] that the document, or portions thereof, are
 28 privileged, protectable as a trade secret or otherwise entitled to protection under the law” (i.e., is

1 “sealable”). Civ. L.R. 79-5(b). The sealing request must also “be narrowly tailored to seek sealing
 2 only of sealable material.” *Id.*

3 In the context of dispositive motions, materials may be sealed in the Ninth Circuit upon a
 4 showing that there are “compelling reasons” to seal the information. *See Kamakana v. City & Cty.*
 5 *Of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179-80 (9th Cir. 2006). However, a party seeking to seal information
 6 in a non-dispositive motion, such as the underlying motion, must show only “good cause.” *Id.* at
 7 1179-80. The rationale for the lower standard with respect to non-dispositive motions is that “the
 8 public has less of a need for access to court records attached only to non-dispositive motions because
 9 these documents are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action”
 10 and that as a result “[t]he public policies that support the right of access to dispositive motions, and
 11 related materials, do not apply with equal force to non-dispositive materials.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d
 12 at 1179; *see also TVIIM, LLC v. McAfee, Inc.*, 2015 WL 5116721, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 28, 2015)
 13 (“Records attached to nondispositive motions are not subject to the strong presumption of access.”)
 14 (citation omitted). Under the “good cause” standard, courts will seal statements reporting on a
 15 company’s users, sales, investments, or other information that is ordinarily kept secret for
 16 competitive purposes. *See Hanginout, Inc. v. Google, Inc.*, 2014 WL 1234499, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Mar.
 17 24, 2014); *Nitride Semiconductors Co. v. RayVio Corp.*, 2018 WL 10701873, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Aug.
 18 1, 2018) (granting motion to seal “[c]onfidential and proprietary information regarding
 19 [Defendant]’s products” under “good cause” standard) (Van Keulen, J.). Although the materials that
 20 Google seeks to seal here easily meet the higher “compelling reasons” standard, the Court need only
 21 consider whether these materials meet the lower “good cause” standard because the underlying
 22 motion is not dispositive.

23 **III. THE ABOVE IDENTIFIED MATERIALS SHOULD ALL BE SEALED**

24 Courts have repeatedly found it appropriate to seal documents that contain “business
 25 information that might harm a litigant’s competitive standing.” *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*,
 26 435 U.S. 589, 589-99 (1978). Good cause to seal is shown when a party seeks to seal materials that
 27 “contain[] confidential information about the operation of [the party’s] products and that public
 28 disclosure could harm [the party] by disclosing confidential technical information.” *Digital Reg of*

1 *Texas, LLC v. Adobe Sys., Inc.*, 2014 WL 6986068, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2014). Materials that
 2 could harm a litigant’s competitive standing may be sealed even under the “compelling reasons”
 3 standard. *See e.g., Icon-IP Pty Ltd. v. Specialized Bicycle Components, Inc.*, 2015 WL 984121, at
 4 *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2015) (information “is appropriately sealable under the ‘compelling reasons’”
 5 standard where that information could be used to the company’s competitive disadvantage”)
 6 (citation omitted). Courts in this district have also determined that motions to seal may be granted
 7 as to potential trade secrets. *See, e.g. United Tactical Sys., LLC v. Real Action Paintball, Inc.*, 2015
 8 WL 295584, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 21, 2015) (rejecting argument against sealing “that [the party]
 9 ha[s] not shown that the substance of the information . . . amounts to a trade secret”).

10 Here, the Reply comprises confidential and proprietary information regarding highly
 11 sensitive features of Google’s internal systems and operations that Google does not share
 12 publicly. Specifically, this information provides details related to Google’s internal projects,
 13 internal databases, data signals, and logs, and their proprietary functionalities, as well as internal
 14 metrics. Such information reveals Google’s internal strategies, system designs, and business
 15 practices for operating and maintaining many of its important services while complying with its
 16 legal and privacy obligations.

17 Public disclosure of the above-listed information would harm Google’s competitive standing
 18 it has earned through years of innovation and careful deliberation, by revealing sensitive aspects of
 19 Google’s proprietary systems, strategies, and designs to Google’s competitors. That alone is a proper
 20 basis to seal such information. *See, e.g., Free Range Content, Inc. v. Google Inc.*, No. 14-cv-02329-
 21 BLF, Dkt. No. 192, at 3-9 (N.D. Cal. May 3, 2017) (granting Google’s motion to seal certain
 22 sensitive business information related to Google’s processes and policies to ensure the integrity and
 23 security of a different advertising system); *Huawei Techs., Co. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, No. 3:16-cv-
 24 02787-WHO, Dkt. No. 446, at 19 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 30, 2019) (sealing confidential sales data because
 25 “disclosure would harm their competitive standing by giving competitors insight they do not have”);
 26 *Trotsky v. Travelers Indem. Co.*, 2013 WL 12116153, at *8 (W.D. Wash. May 8, 2013) (granting
 27 motion to seal as to “internal research results that disclose statistical coding that is not publicly
 28 available”).

1 Moreover, if publicly disclosed, malicious actors may use such information to seek to
 2 compromise Google's data logging infrastructure. Google would be placed at an increased risk of
 3 cyber security threats. *See, e.g., In re Google Inc. Gmail Litig.*, 2013 WL 5366963, at *3 (N.D. Cal.
 4 Sept. 25, 2013) (sealing "material concern[ing] how users' interactions with the Gmail system
 5 affects how messages are transmitted" because if made public, it "could lead to a breach in the
 6 security of the Gmail system"). The security threat is an additional reason for this Court to seal the
 7 identified information.

8 The information Google seeks to redact, including details related Google's internal projects,
 9 internal databases, data signals, and logs, and their proprietary functionalities, as well as internal
 10 metrics, is the minimal amount of information needed to protect its internal systems and operations
 11 from being exposed to not only its competitors but also to nefarious actors who may improperly
 12 seek access to and disrupt these systems and operations. The "good cause" rather than the
 13 "compelling reasons" standard should apply but under either standard, Google's sealing request is
 14 warranted.

15 **IV. CONCLUSION**

16 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should seal the identified portions of the Reply.

17
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